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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,371	03/30/2001	Yuichi Taguchi	37016.00185	7629

30256 7590 02/10/2005

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EXAMINER

SHANG, ANNAN Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,371

Applicant(s)

TAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Annan Q Shang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/23/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Alexander et al. (6,177,931).

As to claim 1, note the **Alexander et al** reference figures 1-4, disclose creation of viewer profile and utilizations of viewer profile information to customize various aspects of the EPG and advertisements and further disclose a web tuner apparatus, comprising:

the claimed “a first means for storing at least one of a plurality of relationships between a user definable identifier for a media source and a source of a media stream;” is met by RAM of Television Receiver (TVR) 10 (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 3-7, col. 5, lines 21-28 and col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12), which stores a viewer favorite channel(s) based on themes “at least one of a plurality of relationships between a user definable identifier for a media source” and the channel number “a source of a media stream;”

the claimed “a means for remotely controlling receiving, and selecting media, and for receiving an input of the least one of a plurality of relationships...” is met by Remote Controller (RC) 26 (fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 21-35), which controls receiving and selecting

a program from the viewer's theme(s) of favorite channel(s) (col. 7, lines 9-17, col. 30, lines 1-16 and lines 46-58);

the claimed "means for displaying information about media sources and receiving input of selection..." is met by TVR 10 Processor (figs 6-8, col. 5, lines 21-45 and col. 8, lines 5-12), which controls various functions, such as Direct Memory Controller, etc., to display the favorite guide titles "information about media sources" and receives input of a program such as STAR TREK "media stream" to be played;

the claimed "means for selecting one of the at least one of a plurality of types of media to receive..." is met TVR 10 Processor (fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 21-35), which receives a viewer's selections via RC 26 and commands TVR 10 Tuner to select one of the programs of the favorite program(s) or channel(s) "a plurality of types of media" to be played;

the claimed "means for receiving at least one of the plurality of types of media; and an output interface means for providing a media..." is met by TVR 10 Display Unit (col. 7, lines 10-17, col. 10, lines 43-60 and col. 16, lines 36-50), which receives the program STAR TREK and provides the program STAR TREK as selected by Processor

As to claim 2, Alexander further discloses where the media includes cable television, television broadcast, WWW and Internet based information (col. 8, lines 19-43 and col. 32, lines 7-22).

As to claim 3, Alexander further discloses where one of the favorite channel(s) comprises a logical channel table (col. 8, lines 5-35, col. 16, lines 36-50 and col. 30, lines 47-58).

As to claim 4, Alexander further discloses where the RC 26 comprises a channel service user interface for a plurality of programs, where the channels are mapped into logical channel values (col. 7, lines 10-17, col. 10, lines 43-60 and col. 30, line 47-col.31, line 14).

As to claim 5, Alexander further discloses where TVR 10 includes a network interface means for providing connectivity to a server (col. 8, lines 44-64).

As to claim 6, note the **Alexander et al** reference figures 1-4, disclose creation of viewer profile and utilizations of viewer profile information to customize various aspects of the EPG and advertisements and further disclose a web station apparatus comprising:

the claimed "means for storing subscriber URL information, the information comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories..." is met by EPG Internet web sites (col. 8, lines 18-64, col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12 and col. 30, lines 1-16), which stores a viewer favorite website address "URL information" (col. 8, lines 18-64 and col. 18, line 1-12) comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, Sports, Movies, News, etc., (col. 7, lines 46-56), the categories providing organization of favorite channel(s) for the program "identifiers of media content" for at least a plurality of channels "sources" of the programs "media streams (col. 29, lines 14-67);

the claimed "a network interface means for providing connectivity to an Internet" is met by EPG Internet web sites communication port (col. 8, lines 18-43) which

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includes a communication port for direct link to users of Television Receivers (TVR) 10 or PCs (col. 3, lines 2-20);

the claimed "means for searching the hierarchical categories in the subscriber URL information to find media having content of interest and means for providing the content..." is met by EPG Internet web sites Processor (col. 8, lines 18-64, col. 18, line 1-12 and col. 29, lines 14-67), which searches the themes EPG Internet database to retrieve themes of interest base the selected website address of the user and provides to the user.

Claim 7 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

As to claim 8, Alexander further discloses where EPG Internet web sites which stores Viewer information comprises one of a plurality of relational categories that organize the media content (col. 8, lines 46-64, col. 29, line 14-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45-58).

As to claim 9, Alexander further discloses storing favorite channel and programs "personal channel information," where the favorite channel table stored locally in RAM or TVR 10 and is mirrored by to enable the viewer to reference the channel table from remote locations (col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12 and col. 29, line 31-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45-58).

As to claim 10, note the **Alexander et al** reference figures 1-4, disclose creation of viewer profile and utilizations of viewer profile information to customize various aspects of the EPG and advertisements and further disclose a system comprising:

the claimed "a web station" is met by EPG Internet web sites (col. 8, lines 53-64);

the claimed "a web tuner" is met by Television Receiver (TVR) 10 (col. 3, lines 2-8);

the claimed "a network interface providing connectivity to an Internet, and enabling the web station to be accessed by the tuner" is met TVR 10 communication port (col. 8, lines 44-64) which provides a network interface to the Internet and enables the EPG Internet web sites to be accessed by TVR 10; where TVR 10 maintains favorite "personal" channel information for at least one of a plurality of users; and where the EPG Internet web sites maintains a copy of the favorite channel information for at least one of a plurality of users (col. 18, line 1-12 and col. 29, line 14-col. 30, line 16 and lines 47-58).

As to claim 11, note the **Alexander et al** reference figures 1-4, disclose creation of viewer profile and utilizations of viewer profile information to customize various aspects of the EPG and advertisements and further disclose a computer-readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to:

the claimed "retrieve at least one of plurality of identifiers for media source..." is met by television Receiver (TVR) 10 Processor, which retrieves favorite channel(s) "at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source" of a program "media stream" to be played (col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12);

displays, on TVR 10 display unit (figs 5-7) the favorite channel (s) for the program of the channel of a plurality of programs to be played (col. 7, lines 10-18); and

upon receiving via Remote controller (RC) 26 "select," Processor commands tuner "switch" of TVR 10, to select the program to be played from the at least one of the

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plurality of programs received by TVR 10 and outputs to TVR 10 display for presentation to the viewer (col. 7, lines 10-17, col. 10, lines 43-60 and col. 16, lines 36-50).

As to claim 12, Alexander further discloses storing the favorite channels in a RAM of TVR 10 (col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12).

As to claim 13, Alexander further discloses where the program code forwards from TVR 10 a copy of the viewer profile or favorite channel information "personal information" store to EPG Internet website "a server;" create at the server a copy of the favorite channel information and access the copy of the profile or favorite channel information store to retrieve the favorite channel of programs to be played from TVR 10 "a second location at a later time" (col. 8, lines 37-64, col. 28, lines 10-35 and col. 29, line 31-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45-58).

As to claim 14, Alexander further discloses where the program stores the channel for the program being played and stores in a user watch list (col. 9, line 65-col. 10, line 12).

As to claim 15, Alexander further discloses where the program stores the identifiers in a viewer URL RAM of TVR 10 (col. 8, line 44-64).

As to claim 16, Alexander further discloses where the program stores a viewer favorite website address "URL information" (col. 8, lines 18-64 and col. 18, line 1-12) comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, Sports, Movies, News, etc., (col. 7, lines 46-56), the categories providing organization of favorite channel(s) for the program "identifiers of media content" for at least a plurality of channels "sources" of

the programs "media streams (col. 29, lines 14-67 col. 16, line 36-col. 17, line 12 and col. 30, lines 1-16);

As to claim 17, Alexander further discloses where the program selects the program to be played and selects one of a plurality of website address corresponding to the related program to be played (col. 8, lines 19-64, col. 18, lines 1-12, lines 33-53 and col. 29, lines 31-col. 30, line 16).

Claim 18 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

As to claim 19, Alexander further discloses where the program causes an identity of a user and provides a plurality of user favorite channels for the user (col. 17, lines 13-36, col. 8, lines 5-17 and col. 16, lines 36-col. 17, line 12).

As to the claim 20, Alexander further discloses where the program causes the TVR 10, to search "scan" the input source for a plurality of available television channels, map the available channels to favorite channels, search the plurality of receivable radio frequencies, map the receivable radio frequencies to the favorite channels search the EPG Internet sources and map the plurality of Internet sources to the favorite channels (col. 8, lines 44-64, col. 18, lines 1-12, lines 33-col. 19, lines 12, col. 29, line 31-col. 30, line 16 and lines 45+).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dunn et al (6,571,390) disclose interactive entertainment network system and method for customizing operation thereof according to viewer preferences.

Dodson et al (6,184,877) disclose system and method for interactively accessing program information on a television.

Legall et al (6,005,565) disclose integrated search of electronic program guide, Internet and other information resources.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q Shang** whose telephone number is **703-305-2156**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-500pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W Miller** can be reached on **703-305-4795**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



Annan Q. Shang.



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